

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects, comprising steps
2 of:
 - 3 selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object in a manner consistent with defined
4 selection settings; and
 - 5 concluding, responsive to the selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for
6 organizing electronic objects.

- 1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the selection
2 settings.

- 1 3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting a word, a phrase, or one or more contiguous characters.

- 1 4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the word, the phrase, or the characters is/are
2 contained in a text document.

- 1 5. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the word, the phrase, or the characters is/are
2 contained in an e-mail message.

- 1 6. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting a portion of an image file.

1 7. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting one or more words, phrases, and characters.

1 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step
2 of selecting a portion of one or more image files.

1 9. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the selected
2 criterion.

10. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the selected
criterion to format a rule for organizing stored documents.

11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
mouse device in the selecting step.

1 12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 light pen device in the selecting step.

1 13. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 plasma panel device in the selecting step.

1 14. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using an
2 audio mechanism in the selecting step.

1 15. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises using a
2 video mechanism in the selecting step.

1 16. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the defined selection settings include swiping
2 an element of a particular electronic object multiple times.

1 17. The method according to Claim 9, wherein, responsive to the selecting step, the index
2 thereby becomes adaptive.

1 18. A system for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects, comprising:
2 means for selecting, by a user, an element of an electronic object in a manner consistent
3 with defined selection settings;

4 means for concluding, responsive to the means for selecting, that the user has indicated a
5 criterion for organizing electronic objects; and
6 means for using the selected criterion to format a rule for organizing stored documents.

1 19. A computer program product for indicating criteria used for organizing electronic objects,
2 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and
3 comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for selecting, by a user, an element of an
5 electronic object in a manner consistent with defined selection settings;
6 computer-readable program code means for concluding, responsive to the computer-
7 readable program code means for selecting, that the user has indicated a criterion for organizing
8 electronic objects; and
9 computer-readable program code means for using the selected criterion to format a rule
10 for organizing stored documents.